

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for installing a printer driver for a printer connected on a network, comprising:

5 a printer driver for the printer;

an installer, located on a host device connected on the network, responsive to activation, for listening for the printer's identification, and responsive to receipt of the printer's identification, for installing the printer driver on the host device; and

10 a beacon, located at the printer, responsive to an input, for broadcasting the printer's identification on the network.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the printer's identification comprises the printer's model name and distinguishing network information.

15 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the host device comprises a personal computer.

20 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the input comprises a user input at the printer.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the printer includes a web server, and responsive to the input, the beacon causes the web server to broadcast the printer's identification on the network.

25 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the printer's identification comprises a data packet including the printer's IP address on the network.

30 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the printer's identification comprises a data packet including the printer's network name on the network.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the printer is located on a subnet on the network and wherein the beacon broadcasts the printer's model name and distinguishing network information to all listeners on the printer's subnet and to all listeners on any other subnets known to the printer.

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9. The system of claim 1, wherein the installer is downloaded onto the host device from a storage location.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the installer is downloaded onto the host
10 device from a link in a web page generated by a web server on the network.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the web server is resident on another printer on the network.